

## DUXBURY IN 1916

(Here is a reprint of a newspaper account written around 1916.--Ed.)

Time was when the Duxbury clam was as plentiful as it is succulent, but the supply which, in the days of bounteous returns, meant anywhere from 25 to 30 buckets between tides, has dwindled to a scant half dozen, and the bivalves are small.

For 30 years the flavor of the Duxbury clam has had an individuality of its own, and wherever it dallied with a palate there it made a friend. Thus the inherent blandishments of this unique clam have given it a place

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among the high class luxuries of the world, and, like the celebrated Providence river oyster, its intrinsic worth has bred base imitators.

It is canned, pickled and dried, and it has found its way to every zone and every clime. Epicures in remote places have sent to Duxbury for seed clams that they might grow crops of their own, and wherever the baby clams were dropped for development there would flock the gull and coot.

Three years ago and up to the present time the subject of Duxbury's moribund industry has been first in the daily and nightly discussion. Suggestions were broached, dissected and looked at from all possible positions.

A closed season for several years was talked of, but this did not seem to tickle the popular fancy and discussion on that point was dropped. Finally some wise old clamdigger suggested planting.

"That's the idea," said the weather browned clammer, "but we'll have to put them under the mud so the gulls can't get at them."

"Right you are," said a second clammer, "put them under at little way and they'll work down, but if you drop those little seedlings on the beach the gulls won't do a thing but hold high carnival over them."

So it was decided that the great Duxbury clam beach should be turned into an immense garden in which clams should be planted, and when the town election day comes next spring the people will vote on the proposition of appro-

priating money to gather young clams and place them where they will do the most good.

It is said that the people of Duxbury are practically a unit on the question of clam planting and clam protection, and when the law, which the promoters of the new industry have in mind becomes operative, each digger of clams in the Duxbury clam garden will have to pay into the town treasury a revenue of five cents per bucket.